GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3493
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
DAMAGE OF FIELDS DUE TO ON GOING PROJECT OF BBMB
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of silt which has collected in the fields of the farmers of Balh valley in district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh due to the on-going project of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the BBMB to resolve this problem;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to compensate the farmers for the damage caused to their fields as a result of the spreading of silt;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (e) : Yes, Sir. In order to minimize the effect of silt dredged out from the Balancing Reservoir at Sundernagar Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has provided a cunette in the bed of Suketi Khad so that silted water is discharged into the river Beas near Mandi (H.P.)

The BBMB has, in consultation with the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, awarded a study at an estimated cost of Rs.26 lakhs to National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur for preparation of Environmental Management Plan for alternate way of disposal of silt. BBMB has also taken the following steps for mitigating the difficulties of the people of the area:

(i) In order to compensate for the dried up sources in the Valley due to construction of Beas Project, BBMB had paid Rs.65 lakhs to Himachal Pradesh Government as final settlement for implementing the drinking water and irrigation schemes.

(ii) BBMB is supplying 2.80 and 4.50 Cs. of water free of cost to the local people of the area to mitigate the hardships till the regular arrangements are made by the Himachal Pradesh Government.

(iii) BBMB is also supplying, on an average, 20 Cs of water for irrigation purposes in the Balh Valley area. In addition all Hospital facilities from the Project Hospitals at Pandoh, Sundernagar and Slapper have been extended to the local population.

(iv) The compensation for the damaged crops is paid to the farmers by the BBMB on the basis of joint assessment made by the State Revenue Department and BBMB.

(v) For the benefit of the people of the area as many as 20 temporary steel bridges have been installed by the BBMB.